



The “Lechi di Pecho” Congress will be held at the Wyndham November 11-14

A cooperation of the island's health organizations have banded together to present a program of seminars for health professionals and an exposition for the public on the benefits and importance of nurturing newborns on the “liquido di oro,” or “the liquid gold” of natural breast milk.

According to the FDA, breast milk is the optimal food for a baby, and choosing whether to breastfeed or formula feed your baby is one of the first - and most important - decisions expectant parents will make.

Although there is no right or wrong choice, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) joins other organizations such as the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Dietetic Association (ADA), and the World Health Organization (WHO) in recommending breastfeeding as the best for babies. Specifically, the AAP says babies should be breastfed exclusively for the first 6 months and then beyond if both the mother and baby are willing.

The importance of giving a baby this vital first step to will be the subject of several seminars and workshops taking place in the Horacio Oduber Hospital, on November 11 and 14. Guest lecturers Pamela Allyn of the United States will be joined by Adrienne de Reede of UNICEF, doctor Marion Schroen from Curacao, and Dr. Gonneke van Veldhuiszen will be speaking and conducting the workshops. Inscription for these programs have varying fees depending on the level of participation, which can be paid directly to an Aruba Bank account. The introduction activities and seminars will take place on Friday; the various workshops on Monday.

Health professionals that work in the pre and post partum field are all encouraged to attend.

The Wyndham Resort, Spa and Casino will host an informative exposition of interest to the public on the “basic principles” of breast-feeding and its importance taking place over Saturday and Sunday, November 12, and 13 in the Palm Beach Ballroom. Informative materials in various languages will be distributed, there will be instructive videos, and experts in the field will be available to answer questions.

A special exhibition of local artists, organized by Gilbert Senchi, curator of the South End Art Gallery in San Nicholas will also be on display. Titled “Oro Liquido” These works will focus on the theme of the mother and child relationship and bonding of breastfeeding, and the various works will be auctioned to raise funds for the Foundation Pro Lechi Mama. Works of noted artists Belinda de Veer, Osaira Muyale, James Wiersma, Johan Stoppel, Paul van Driel, Photographer, Janine Flanegin, Annelotte Ellis, Garmen geeren, Frank Graat, Miryan Monosteria, and Hans Nimber have been commissioned for this special event, which will have a gala opening on Friday night, November 11 at 9:00 pm.

The motto of the congress is “An early beginning for a better tomorrow” to emphasize the importance of giving one's child the best start in life possible. Cooperating in this effort is the Horacio Oduber Hospital, CIZKA, Foundation Pro Lechi and the White-Yellow Cross under the auspices of the Department of Public Health with financing provided by Fondo Desaroyo Aruba and the Kiwanis Club of Aruba. For more information on the schedule and inscription contact the Secretary of the Borstvoeding Commision, telephone # 522-4250 or via e-mail: congresborstvoedingaruba@hotmail.com.